



June 1, 1999

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Dear Ted,

You'd think there would be a law against baking avocados, and that's not to mention the dubious act of passing them off as piping hot baked potatoes.

I received both letters 50 and 51 today. Thank you. Jeff Miller will be getting back to me about the legal edits soon. In the meantime, I have sent the letter regarding permissions to your brother.

Today was eventful. After one failed attempt, I met with Joe Sucher and Steve Fischler. We had a very serious discussion about the media, and the pandemic dementia among the media vis-à-vis a first exclusive interview. As you know, Sucher and Fischler feel that they will need an exclusive interview in order to sell their documentary in an "as is" form. They will be able to leverage in radical views that various venues might edit out because of this exclusivity. Both of them claim to know Bob Anderson (Vicki Gordon's boss) of Sixty Minutes. They persuasively argued that—no matter what you had in writing—the editors of that program might still portray you as a discreditable person. Sucher, in particular, said something that cut me to the quick: It would be a gamble at best. This statement affected me strongly. I am unwilling to be responsible for such a risk and so think it may be best for you to go with Fischler and Sucher exclusively. They have their interests, too, but I think you will be able to make a decision based on the above and your previous experiences with people in the media (which would include Steve, Joe, and myself even though we are all independents).

In their favor is the fact that they are anarchists, regardless of their approach which admittedly differs from your own. They are also straight shooters. I think the odds would be good for creating a successful documentary with them. They had a good suggestion with regard to my hope that we could get you on a program like 60M in a manner that both promoted public awareness of your book and redressed the media distortions that have been perpetrated against you thus far. They suggested taping footage for a news program when they shoot their documentary. You could then answer questions that the public may have in a manner that could not be used against you. I think this is a very good solution.

As for programs like 60M and Larry King Live, it is a risk. This is something that you must already know. I have allowed myself to believe in the power of a written agreement at a high premium (i.e., an intact picture of reality) and I am glad that I met with Sucher and Fischler. I am no longer advocating that you do this at my request. I am more interested in providing all of the available information so that you can make the right decision. I apologize, find some relief that I arrived at this position before it proved possibly detrimental to you, and trust you to make the right choice.

Greta van Susterin might be a different story, since she understands the legal issues you are currently working on and thinks the 2255 stands a chance with the Ninth Circuit. I have come to this opinion based on information related to me by Mello.

I hope that you are doing well on the next episode in this appeal! I'm enclosing an article on Mello's book by an old friend of mine, which will be published later today. A very happy belated birthday!

Yume,
Dean.